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United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott
Eastern District of California

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CONTACT: Lauren Horwood
PHONE: (916) 554-2706
lauren.horwood@usdoj.gov

TWO SENTENCED IN CONNECTION WITH BRIBERY SCHEME AT FEDERAL PRISON

Prison Cook and Brother Smuggled Various Forms of Tobacco into Federal Prison in Return for Payments

SACRAMENTO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL MEGILL, 35, of Bremerton, Wash., and JEREMY MEGILL, 33, of Reno, Nev., were sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. to one year in federal prison. The defendants pleaded guilty on May 9, 2008, to one count of conspiracy to commit bribery of a public official in connection with a scheme to smuggle tobacco to inmates at the Federal Correctional Institution at Herlong, Calif. – a medium security installation located in Lassen County where MICHAEL MEGILL was employed.

This case is the product of an investigation by the United States Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sean C. Flynn, who prosecuted the case, between December 2006 and June 2007, while MICHAEL MEGILL was employed at FCI – Herlong as a cook, he and his brother, JEREMY MEGILL, conspired to provide prohibited tobacco substances to prisoners in exchange for money. Specifically, the brothers admitted that during the seven-month period, MICHAEL MEGILL smuggled various forms of chewing and smoking tobacco into the prison and secreted those items within the facility so that they could be retrieved and used by inmates. Outside the prison walls, JEREMY MEGILL, the prison employee's brother, arranged for and accepted the payment of bribe money from the family

members of inmates, and other contacts, in return for the introduction and distribution of contraband tobacco within the facility. The brothers charged prisoners up to \$500 for each delivery of contraband into the prison.

Pursuant to Federal Bureau of Prisons rules and regulations, all forms of tobacco are contraband within Federal Corrections institutions and federal inmates are not entitled to lawfully possess or utilize tobacco in any form.

“By engaging in this bribery and smuggling scheme, Michael Megill abused his authority and compromised the integrity, order and discipline of the federal prison system,” said United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott.

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